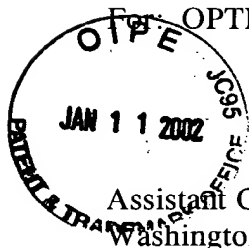


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of )  
Toshiharu MORI et al. ) Group Art Unit: 2871  
Application No.: 09/392,264 ) Examiner: Kenneth Parker  
Filed: September 9, 1999 )  
For OPTICAL FILTER DEVICE )

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marsha  
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REPLY

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Applicants respectfully traverse the Restriction Requirement of January 2, 2002. In the Restriction Requirement, the Office divides the claims into two Groups with Group I including claims "drawn to a liquid crystal device with a particular electrode structure" and Group II drawn to a "liquid crystal device with particular contact structure." In reviewing the 22 pending claims, Applicants note that none of them includes a recitations to either an "electrode structure" or "contact structure." In fact, the specification does not specifically specify identify either an "electrode structure" or a "contact structure." Accordingly, it appears that the Restriction Requirement may have issued inadvertently. In light thereof, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement.

It is noted that generally it is required that Applicants elect one set of claims, whether or not they traverse the requirement. In this instance, claims cannot be divided

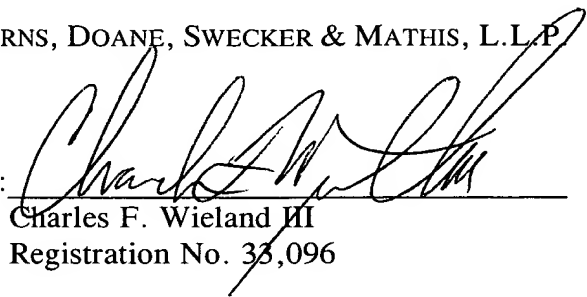
along the lines identified between Group I and II, and subsequently elect all pending claims  
1-22 for examination at this time.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

Date: January 11, 2002

By:

  
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